

T H E
Sailor's Happiness,
A
S C H E M E

To prevent the Impressing of
SEAMEN in Time of War.

D E D I C A T E D

To the Right Honourable

GEORGE Lord *ANSON*,

First Lord Commissioner of the
Admiralty.

L O N D O N:

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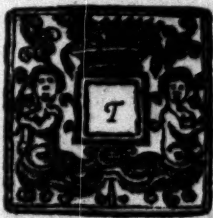


To the Right Honourable

GEORGE Lord **ANSON**,

First Lord Commissioner of the
Admiralty.

My LORD,



*THE following Scheme
is peculiarly addressed
to your Favour and
Patronage, to which I am chiefly en-*

A 2 *couraged*

*couraged by your known Affability;
 and, tho' this Undertaking appear
 unadorned with the customary Em-
 bellishments of elegant Language ne-
 cessary for a general Acceptance, I
 hope the Intentions of so laudable a
 Design will intitle it to your Lord-
 ship's Protection. To countenance such
 an imperfect Attempt would be a
 generous Condescension, and might
 probably create an Emulation a-
 mongst others of more fertile Ge-
 nius and refined Parts, who may
 luckily hit on the happy Expedient,
 and from this Gothick Foundation
 erect the regular, and long wished
 for*

for Superstructure, which may tend to the Glory and Honour of the British Nation. Then every Englishman who is at all acquainted with the many beautiful Orders, and gradual Advances to Perfection, given from Reign to Reign to the Naval Armament of Great Britain since 1588, may, at last, behold it gloriously crowned by a legal Provision to Mann his Majesty's Fleet without Impresssing: an Event that would add Lustre to the auspicious Reign of our most gracious Sovereign, reflecting immortal Honour on all its Promoters and Patrons.

And

*And that the happy Circumstance
may more especially add to yours,
is the sincere wish, and most strenu-
ous desire, of*

My LORD,

Your Lordship's

most devoted,

and most obedient

humble Servant

PHILONAUTA.



A

S C H E M E

How to Mann the Royal Navy of
Great Britain, in Time of War,
without the impressing of Sea-
men, &c.

 S the Legislature has not hitherto established a regular and certain Manner of levying our Marine, those intrusted with the Execution of the great and important Charge of Lord High Admiral of *Great Britain*, are hereby constrained, when War or other Emergencies of State make it absolutely necessary, to have Recourse to the harsh and unconstitutional Custom of issuing
Orders

Orders for impressing Seamen ; by which Free-born *Britons* are forcibly dragged to their Country's Service and Defence.

'Tis sufficiently obvious to the meanest Understanding, if unprejudiced, that the chief, if not the entire Security, Well-fare, and Glory of these Kingdoms, are dependent on our maritime Force ; which, as it has been hitherto invincible, will, in all human Probability, continue so, if well and properly Mann'd.

Many have been the Endeavours of late Years, legally to Accomplish this great and necessary Work ; yet they have been always unhappily frustrated, either by the Artifice of self-interested Men, or the Clamours of factious Opposition ; representing such a Law as impracticable, pernicious to, and inconsistent with the Rights of a free People : But this fatal Prevention, while tending to the Depression of our Naval Glory, must create the highest Satisfaction in those Enemies of *Great Britain*,
who

who embrace every Opportunity of encreasing and improving their Marine, wherein they have so far succeeded, as to render themselves formidable enough for their own Security, as was too manifestly instanced in the *Mediterranean* Engagement in 1743; and it is to be apprehended, they may soon think themselves enabled to contend with us for the Sovereignty of the Ocean: However, I am of Opinion, that those Obstacles to a Scheme so evidently calculated for the public Utility, are not at all invincible; provided a decent Determination was exerted for facilitating the Means that might be conducive to the Establishment of this momentous Affair: Therefore, nothing is more deserving of the legislative Attention than an Expedient promising the Preservation and Promotion of our national Felicity; which, I humbly think, may be effected by passing into a Law, the following, or some better, Method of raising Seamen for his Majesty's Service, and Manning the Royal Navy without Im-

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pressing.

pressing. Such an Act would not only aggrandize, and secure the glorious Bulwark of *British* Wealth and Liberty; but would infallibly continue it to the latest Ages, by the Encouragement of Seamen, who are the undoubted Support of our Allies, and the Terror of our restless and ambitious Rivals.

Tho' your Lordship, from a constant and long experienced Service in all subordinate Commands, to the high Rank you now deservedly hold in the Royal Navy, can be no Stranger to the expensive Inconveniencies, and often dangerous, and lamentable Consequences which must await the necessary, but odious Injunction of Impressing; yet I cannot forbear mentioning, what no Officer could avoid observing during the late Wars, how greatly the Honour of our Arms was risked, and how the Good of the Service suffered by the aforementioned Practice, which must be constantly the Case, 'till a national Remedy is applied.

I shall

I shall now point out only in general Terms some of the many Hardships and Calamities, inseparable from this Service : for which Purpose, let us first view, in Order, the shocking Circumstances, and perplexed Situation, of those brave Fellows deprived of gratifying their eager Desires ; whether anxious of seeing, and relieving their necessitous Families, and affectionate Parents ; or longing once more to meet their kind expecting Friends, after a tedious and perilous Voyage, perhaps of Years ; now forced on board Men of War, and very likely at the Time under Orders for the *East*, or *West Indies*, or *Mediterranean* : The hard-earn'd Wages, allotted for the Support of Wives, or indigent Parents, are now, thro' Sorrow and Despair, unthinkingly squandered away, and converted into inflammatory Liquors, and poisonous Spirits ; which, at all Events, must be had, however purchased ; purposely to intoxicate their remaining Senses, and to enable them, as they term it, by drinking all Care away, to forget Wives,

and, I may justly say, wretched Orphans; the former by pinching Want, and a Complication of Disappointments, often compelled to become infamous; while the helpless Infants are expiring in our very Streets and Lanes, or are at least burdensome to the Public. This infernal Sotting, tho' the Prevention is next to an Impossibility, was continually attended with fatal Consequences, introductive of the most malignant Fevers and Distempers; sweeping away, especially the first four Years of the War, much more of our Seamen, than we lost during the whole Time by the Enemy: The Necessity of keeping those Men on board, to prevent Desertion, rendered the then raging Disease very mortal, and the People more liable to the contagious Infection; which unavoidable Confinement added Fuel to the Fire, by aggravating their gloomy Discontent, and making them look on themselves, thus deprived of Liberty, and natural Recreation, as Slaves for ever doomed to the Oar, equally the same with

with those of *Marfeilles*, *Carthagena*, or *Barbary*.

The Officer could not discharge his Duty too vigilantly, and guard against the many Attempts and Stratagems practised, sometimes successfully, by the Seamen during the War, to favour their Escape; such a Conduct appearing, to them, rigorous and tyrannical; for tho' they discharged their Duty, it was with a Sullenness that nothing but Time and Habit could wear off; continually on the Look-out for the dear Opportunity of regaining their former State. The conceived Resentment of this incumbent Strictness gave Birth to the innumerable Murmurs raised, and propagated abroad, against the Officers of the Royal Service: For when Seamen are prepossessed with, or imbibe an ill Opinion of, their Superiors, the Prejudice is seldom or ever removed; and then all Means are used to communicate their Notions, not only to those in Service, but to the censorious World,

World, generally too much inclined, without Examination, to exaggerate all Misrepresentations ; by which illaudable, and still fashionable Custom, Gentlemen of the greatest Humanity, Worth, and Honour, have been branded with the atrocious Tongue of Slander, and their Characters handed about amongst Coffee-house Politicians, but more especially those who pretend to a better Knowledge of other Men's Business than their own, as Tyrants, Brutes, Bashaws, and every other arbitrary Denomination ; though 'tis certain, as strict Diligence is requisite, and extraordinary Care necessary, in his Majesty's Ships, when Manned with impressed Sailors, a stumbling Block is frequently thereby laid for Officers, either of a gentle or morose Disposition : Therefore, before I can well conclude this long Digression from my intended Scheme, some little Notice should be taken of the executive Part of the impressing Service.

Many

Many and frequent are the Dangers, that the most prudent and cautious Officer is exposed to in the Discharge of this Duty : I am sensible that, by many, they have been thought unnecessary Risques, and of their own seeking by Water; and I allow, it may be so; but on Shore, to execute Orders with Approbation and Success, and without imminent Peril, is impracticable; for almost every Sea-port Town affords some Instance of the most inhuman Treatment of Gentlemen, not only from the Populace, but even the civil Officers, on those Occasions; by being beaten and bruised without Compassion; thrown into Jails and Dungeons without legal Hearing, or Means of Justification; and if unhappily, in Self-defence, or by any unfortunate Accident, an unlucky Blow might be given, then the Law was racked to the most extensive Severities for punishing the Infringer of Liberty : The most remarkable Theatres for those Scenes being *Hull, Bristol, Scarborough, Minehead, Barnstable, Dover,* and

and near, and about *London* : And here it would be unjust to pass over the narrow Escape of Captain S—r—p, who, in the North, was brought to the destined Tree of Execution, with the Noose about his Neck, where he must have barbarously perished, had he not been very providentially saved, by an uncommon Accident, too tedious at present to be mentioned.

Tho' it would be the greatest Presumption and Impertinence to take upon me to give a further Information of the Nature of this national Grievance to you, my Lord, perfectly instructed, by uninterrupted and successful Experience in all the Degrees of Service, and now happily directing in its highest Sphere ; yet to pave the Way for my subsequent Purpose, and endeavour to add some Weight to what has been often, and without Contradiction, proved by real Well-wishers to our national Interest, I could hardly dispense with the little I have imperfectly

fectly observed, previous to my entering on the Method how this Evil might be remedied; I confess, that without a great Share of Vanity, a Proposal of this Nature cannot be expected to succeed at this Juncture, when the same salutary Design has been so often baffled, tho' introduced to a Parliamentary Consideration by the ablest Orators, and seconded by many of the most conspicuous Patriots; even convincing all but those who would not, or could not see the inexpressible Good, that must accrue from the intended Law; and that some Time, or other, an unlooked Surprise would give us just Occasion to bewail our specious Pretexts for Opposition: tho' their Subterfuge extended no farther, than in affirming, that Registering our Seamen, or the respective Parishes of these Kingdoms furnishing their Quotas of Mariners, would undermine, and be dangerous to Liberty, because practised by our subtil Neighbours; and, if enacted, a greater Evil than Impressing, would ensue. Yet, if a Method, or Rule could

be found out, to direct the steady Course, between *Scylla* and *Carybdis* ; Methinks, at a Time, when wise Regulations are made, and salutary Laws, still on the Tapis, for the general Welfare, it cannot be deemed unseasonable, for any zealous Votary to the Honour and Renown of his Country, to attempt drawing some rough Out-lines, that might contribute to Form the real, and long expected Plan.

I shall, with the greater Assurance, offer a helping Hand, as I hope my Intentions of doing Good, will, in some Degree, atone for the Want of that Judgment, and profound Knowledge, requisite to Guide an Undertaking of this Nature, and Consequence ; nor shall I be discouraged at the Objections, which, I am sensible, many have made, and even will start, in Order to oppose and destroy whatever might intirely secure, or solidly strengthen our Constitution.

I'll

I'll endeavour to make it evidently appear, that *Great Britain*, by enacting the following Regulations, may, upon the Prospect of a War, or any sudden Irruption, raise, in a few Months, a naval Force, of forty thousand Seamen, or more, without any Occasion to Impress, or force any Person into his Majesty's Service.

By certain Computation, we have twenty thousand Men, whose Dependence and Interest will engage them to enter voluntarily on board his Majesty's Ships of War : The present Manner of raising the rest, how difficult, precarious, and vexatious is now needless to repeat ; and, to exclude it for ever in *Britain*, the following Method, if enacted by Parliament, may probably redress every Grievance, and answer every salutary Purpose ; because it is not liable to any of the Exceptions, offered against all hitherto proposed : besides, it will effectually put an End to Begging ; at the same Time, easing

our poor Rates, at present grievous, and intollerable; freeing the Nation of idle, and reprobate Vermin, by converting them into a Body of the most industrious People, and even, becoming the very Nerves of our State;* the Prevention of which
was

* Sir *Richard Lloyd*, reported from the Committee, appointed to revise, and consider the Laws relating to Felonies, &c. That they were of Opinion, that Provision for the Poor is become a very great and increasing Charge on the real and personal Estates of the Subjects, occasioned by the vast Sums expended on their Maintenance only, and the little Care taken to employ them; and the Removals of them from all Parts of the Kingdom, to their legal Settlements, which is the Cause of many chargeable Controversies. That another great Source of the Increase of Expence is, the little Care taken to educate the Children of the Poor, in Habits of Industry. And that they were further of Opinion, that many Parishes are too small to raise a Stock, sufficient to employ their Poor, to any Advantage; but, that in all Probability, it would be a great Means of lessening, to a considerable Degree, the Charge of the Poor, and of greatly decreasing their Number, if they could be em-

was, in the last Session, under Parliamentary Consideration.

I would, therefore, humbly propose, *first*, that there be erected, by Act of Parliament, Work-houses, adequate, in Number and Size, to the Wealth and Inhabitants of each County, of *Great Britain* and *Wales*; for the Accomodation of all Boys, when left destitute; whether as Orphans, begging in Country or Towns, or any Ways chargeable to the Public: that they be employed, according to their Capacities, in our Manufactures, or for the Fishery, 'till of Age to go to Sea; then to be registred in a general Register-book, of each County, and

employed, and maintained, by a common Fund, in every County: And that, if such a Method shall be agreed on, the Repeal of the several Laws, concerning Settlements, Removals, and Certificates, would be a saving of great Sums, now expended on those Occasions.

and draughted out, on board his Majesty's Ships, Colliers, Coasters, Fishing-vessels, or in such other Manner, as shall be appointed.

2^{dly}, That it be further enacted, that every Ship or Vessel, in *Great Britain*, shall be obliged, according to their Tonnage, to receive a proportional Number of those Boys, to serve on board, as Apprentices, for five, six, or seven Years; and then, or before, if the Service should require it, to be draughted in regular Order, on board his Majesty's Ships.

3^{dly}, That after the Expiration of their Servitude, they should undertake no foreign Voyage, without Licence from the head Register, or Commissary of their respective Counties, or of the Port, where they served their Time; acquainting them likewise, or to be reported from their Commander, when their Voyage is performed.

4^{thly},

4thly, That in Time of Peace, when his Majesty's Service cannot employ the whole Number of the registred Seamen, all Merchant Ships of 150 Tons, shall be obliged, by the said Act, to entertain one of the said Men; Ships of 240 Tons, two Men; and, that all Ships above 300 Tons, should navigate, with three at least, of the said Seamen; but in this Clause, Colliers are to be excepted so far, that none under 300 Tons, should be liable to entertain any Person by this Act, and all above 300 to be classed as Merchant Ships of 150 Tons.

5thly, That in every Work-house, besides a proper Person to instruct the Boys in the Principles of the established Religion, there shall be an orderly able Seaman, draughted from *Greenwich Hopital*, the Out-pensioners of the Chest of *Chatham*, or any other sober Seaman worn out in the national Service, to keep them employed, and at proper Times tasked in picking Oakum, making Spun-Yarn,

Yarn, Sennet, Gaskets, Points, Robins, Matts, twice laid Stuff, &c. and, in Order that they might be the more serviceable at coming on board, there should be a large Model old Boat or Vessel, according as the Situation of the Place would admit, that those of maturer Years should rig, and unrig; by which Exercise, the Names of Ropes, their Places, and Use, with all proper Terms, and Nature of running, standing, rigging, and ground Tackle, would become familiar; whereby they would have little else to learn, when draughted for Sea, than to put their Theory in Practice, which a very short Space of Time would greatly advance, and a few Years at Sea render these regular bred Youth, inured to Labour, and Obedience, a Body of the best, and most orderly Mariners in the Universe.

Great Britain, at the lowest Computation, breeds annually three thousand five hundred of these indigent forlorn Wretches; and this Nursery, if cultivated,

tivated, as already mentioned, will yield after the first five Years of its Plantation, two thousand five hundred fit for Sea every Twelve-months; whereby, in ten Years its Increase, according to this Calculation, must amount to twenty-five thousand Men and Boys; so that making reasonable Allowances for Death and Accidents, we may fix their Compliment at twenty thousand; and this Regulation, especially with Amendements, would infallibly Support, that Quota compleat, as long as these Kingdoms continue populous and flourishing.

I should think myself extremely happy, if capable of answering and confuting all the scrupulous Objections, that will spring up, in so fertil a Soil as ours, against this, or any other well-intentioned Proposal: Tho' I confess myself unable to parry all the Thrusts, that will be levelled; yet, I'll endeavour beforehand, to guard against the first, that I apprehend will be made, *viz.* why there

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should

should be such particular Care and Provision, for Boys only? I answer, that Girls of the same Denomination, ought, for the public Good, to be accommodated and trained up, in a Manner agreeable to their Sex, by being closely employed, in the Manufactures of the different Countries.

If this, or some better digested Scheme, should ever take Place, and pass into a Law, the Labour of those Children of the Community, would in a great Measure, Cloath and Maintain them: And notwithstanding, the Preparations of this Business, as it will be expensive, may be somewhat discouraging, yet, the Fruits of this glorious Undertaking, would greatly repay us, as it Demonstrates, without any deep Scrutiny, that a final Period would be put to begging, by removing from our Houses the greatest, and most expensive Nuisance of the Nation; clearing our Streets and High-ways of Thieves, Cut-throats, and Vagrants, and compelling
ing

ing those to become industrious and useful, who now are the only Nurseries of our common Felons, trained intirely for the Gallows, to reflect an uncommon Scandal and Infamy, on a civilized and renowned People.

It will next be questioned, in what Manner those Men allotted for the public Service, can be provided for, and employed, in Time of Peace, as their Increase will be apparently so very great; tho' this has been already, in a great Measure provided for; I shall also state an Answer to the Objection as Satisfactory, and clear as possible, which is that supposing, with Allowances made for Death and Accidents, we have not at the Expiration of a War, above fifteen or sixteen thousand effective, and able Seamen existing; yet, tho' there is near, at such Times, among Sailors any struggle, or desire to remain on board Ships of War; eight thousand, or more of the said Number can be employed, in the Royal Navy, on board

his Majesty's Ships stationed abroad, Guard-ships at home, and as ordinary Labourers in our Dock-yards ; or, if Necessity, or the Nature of our national Affairs, require they may be serviceable in our Colonies, &c. If the rest cannot be disposed of in Merchant Ships, Colliers, Coasters, or the Fishery : There is another Expedient, how to employ them in the public Service, which is, when our Land forces on such an Occasion, must be reduced, that such a Reduction make room for the supposed Overplus, by disbanding Artificers in their Lieu ; which we all know would be an agreeable Exchange for the latter, and our transplanted Sailors already disciplined, would better the Service, being always ready to Act in a double Capacity, and occasionally the fittest Body for an Embarkation. But notwithstanding this last imaginary Provision, if we should be over-stocked, I cannot conceive how, that a Number of well-trained and industrious People, handed so far into the World, could want
Bread

Bread or Employment in a Country, which I hope Providence will ever bless with Trade and Commerce.

If a Regulation of this Nature should be enacted in *Britain*, the same copied in *Ireland*, would carry thither the same salutary Consequences, especially, in the Southern and Western Parts, and would be productive of many Advantages to us, and the poor Inhabitants of those Counties, really miserable, intirely absorbt in gross Ignorance, and the rankest of *Romish* Superstition ; so blindly bigotted, that the evil Seeds can scarce be rooted out after many Years in Service : One certain and dangerous Evil, it would greatly, if not altogether destroy ; as it must prevent in Time, the carrying of those People into the *French* and *Spanish* Service, whence they are now too frequently supplied with Recruits for their Troops, and Seamen for their Marine.

Security

Security has often been a fatal Forerunner of the Subversion and Ruin of the greatest States, and most magnificent Empires; tho', when that Infatuation prevails, nothing can be thought more ludicrous than to provide in peaceable Times, for distant Events, in a new Manner: However, as we have no Reason to apprehend, that such a Distemper, has spread its infectious Qualities in *Great Britain*, it is not to be doubted, but that we shall be effectually guarded against the future Attacks, which we must reasonably expect, sooner or latter, from our inveterate and ambitious Neighbour.

An ardent Zeal to see the Royal Navy of *Great Britain* perfectly cured of its only Defect, made me presume to dedicate this Scheme to your Lordship's Patronage; and indeed, all who sincerely desire this real and national Good cannot but reasonably expect to have it brought about, and happily compleated, when
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the wise Senator, experienced Officer, and
able Seaman, worthily presides over the
Direction of the naval Affairs of this po-
tent Island.

F I N I S

